



# UA OLA NO O KAI IA KAI

## Shore dwellers find subsistence in the sea

**Honu** Sea turtles, called *honu* by Hawaiians, live here year-round. This green sea turtle rests before returning to the water to feed on *limu* (seaweed).

Since long before written history, a strong spirit of life has flowed through this land and the water that washes upon its shore. Hawaiians saw this spirit in the pools of water fresh enough to drink, the ocean animals to catch for food, the plants to shape into shelters. And so they settled here. They lived *makai*—on the beach and lava fields—harvesting food from the sea; they lived *mauka*—upland where enough

rain fell to grow taro and banana. They traveled the mauka-makai trails to share their harvests. They lived by *kapu*—laws that protected the food and water. Their way of living in harmony with the land and sea changed little for centuries, and then almost disappeared. Today the Hawaiian spirit is strong again, and is celebrated and nurtured here at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park.

**'Ai'ōpio Fishtrap** Hawaiians improved this natural fishtrap with walls built of lava (*top*). Fish that are caught, like 'Ama'ama or striped mullet (*below*), are held in fishponds.

### Loko (Fishponds and Fishtraps)

Early on, Hawaiians discovered how to use ponds and bays for catching and farming fish. At Kaloko-Honokōhau they created *loko*—fishponds and a fishtrap—to collect and raise food. Strict *kapu* decreed when these fish could be

harvested, such as when ocean fish were scarce. With this secure source of food, Hawaiians lived well here. Today fishing continues, using traditional and modern ways—including fish hooks like the one shown above.

### KALOKO FISHPOND

Strength and spirit flow through this *loko kuapā* (walled fishpond) and its massive stone wall. The *kuapā* absorbs wave energy and allows water through. With changing tides, fish swim in and out of the pond through the 'auwai kai

(channel). A *mākāhā* (sluice gate) prevents passage of larger fish. Peter Keka (*photo, holding rock*), who was born and raised in this area, was the master mason for restoring the Kaloko *kuapā*.

### 'AIMAKAPĀ FISHPOND

This *loko pu'uone* (sand berm fishpond) sheltered aquatic life behind the dunes. Hawaiians built enclosures along the far-inland shore to hold fish that they wanted to keep for food. They also dug channels from the pond to the ocean to

allow water to flow in and out with the tides. Sedges and other aquatic plants line the pond, creating nesting places for rare native birds like *ae'o* (Hawaiian stilt, *above*) and 'alae *ke'oke'o* (Hawaiian coot).

### 'AI'ŌPIO FISHTRAP

Early residents raised the natural lava wall on the bay side to create a *loko 'ume iki* (fishtrap). They placed nets across the openings to catch the fish as they swam in or out with the changing tides and currents. At low tide, you can

see the stone pens built to hold fish. The large rock platform (*upper left in photo*) was the site of the *Pu'uoina Heiau* (temple). The *heiau* signified the importance of this fishtrap and the two fishponds.

### E Komo Mai (Welcome)

The National Park Service welcomes you to Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park, established in 1978. We invite you to explore the park, enjoying its natural beauty and visiting sites that still speak of the Hawaiian people who thrived here for centuries.

Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park is on the west coast of the island of Hawai'i, on Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway (Hwy. 19) between Kona International Airport and Kailua-Kona, near mile marker

97. Stop first at Hale Ho'okipa, the visitor center, open 8:30 am to 4 pm daily. From there you can walk a trail to the beach or drive to the other two park entrances.

**Walking the Park's Trails**  
• Ala Mauka Makai connects the visitor center and Honokōhau Beach. Pass old ranch structures and native loulou palms. Take a short side trail to see *ki'i pōhaku* (petroglyphs). Rough and uneven; 0.9 miles.  
• The coastal trail is part of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, and goes to 'Aimakapā and Kaloko fishponds, and Wāwahiwa'a Point. Look for heiau and house platforms, sea turtles, and shorebirds. The trail is on soft sand and rough lava. 1.4 miles from 'Ai'ōpio Fishtrap to Kaloko Fishpond; 1.7 miles to Wāwahiwa'a Point. (Historic trail continues beyond park.)

• Walk across a 2,000-year-old lava flow on the rugged Māmalahoa Trail, which was used for cattle and horses.  
• Ala Hu'e'hu'e, an old ranch road, gives you an idea of the paths people traveled from makai to mauka.

**Ocean and Beach Recreation**  
Enjoy fishing, snorkeling, surfing, and swimming. To protect cultural sites, please do not dig or move the sand or rocks.

**Looking for Wildlife**  
At Kaloko Fishpond, look for *ae'o* (stilt) and *auku'u* (night heron). 'Aimakapā Fishpond is a nesting area for *ae'o* and

'alae *ke'oke'o* (Hawaiian coot) and a winter home for other birds. Along the shore, look for sea turtles and shorebirds.

**Regulations and Safety**  
Honor and respect ceremonies, protocols, and practices. Keep your distance and refrain from photographing or recording.  
• Federal law protects all cultural and natural objects in the park.  
• Do not collect shells or rocks.  
• Do not disturb wildlife or plants, including in tide-pools.  
• Stay on designated trails.  
• Bathing in anchialine pools is prohibited.  
• Firearms regulations and fishing guidelines are on the park website.

• Pets must be restrained and under control by a leash no longer than six feet.  
• Enjoy picnics, but do not use open fires or glass containers.  
• Wear sturdy shoes on trails.  
• Check at the visitor center for warnings about high surf, currents, or storms.  
• Wear sun protection and bring plenty of water.

**Accessibility**  
We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to the visitor center, call, or check the park website.

**Emergencies call 911**

**Related Sites**  
Explore traditional Hawaiian life at other National Park sites on this island: Pu'uohonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park, Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

**More Information**  
Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

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## What happens on the mountain, happens in the sea

The park lies at the base of five ahupua'a that begin upland on the mountain Hualālai. Ancient Hawaiians ensured each land division had the plants, animals, and water they needed.

## A photograph showing a stone breakwater structure extending into a body of water. The breakwater is constructed from large, dark, irregular stones, with a narrow channel of water running between two parallel sections. The water is calm and reflects the sky. In the background, a green shoreline with trees and bushes is visible, followed by a range of mountains under a cloudy sky.

